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FOOD INFORMATION SERIES
United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Information
Washington 25, D. C.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
OCT 2 1943

October 1, 1943

No.67

Subject: October Farm Labor Jobs ^A

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Suggested Use: Background information

The second seasonal peak for farm labor is usually reached about October 1, the first such peak being around July 1. Based on reports from a number of States, the general consensus seems to be that farm labor needs have been met in general up to the present, but that there will be a continued heavy demand for workers during October and November.

The area of heaviest demand for hand labor continues to be the Cotton Belt, where 400 million man-hours of labor will be required for cotton picking during the month of October. Some cotton is grown in 19 States, but the largest acreages are in the Southern group of States. Many cotton areas are calling upon city people to help get in the crop, which this year is estimated at nearly 12 million bales. In some areas of the Cotton Belt, entire towns are closing up for half holidays each week to allow city people to go to the farms and help pick cotton.

Harvesting of corn and soybeans throughout the Corn Belt and other scattered areas also gets under way in October. Since less hand labor is required for corn harvesting, however, the Corn Belt during the month will need only about 60 million man-hours, while soybeans will require 12 million man-hours.

With a record crop of 62 million bushels of Irish potatoes in prospect, the Maine potato area continues to be one of the country's labor "hot spots." Thousands of persons have been brought from outside the State to help local people harvest a yield which is now indicated at 325 bushels per acre.

Harvesting of sugar beets also will be in full swing during October, with an estimated need of 15 million man-hours in the Western sugar beet States.

There may also be local farm labor shortages in the fruit and vegetable areas of the Northeast and the Pacific coast.

The BAE Farm Labor Report for September shows about 11,500,000 workers on the farms of the country on September 1. This does not include many thousands of U. S. Crop Corps workers, however, since only persons who work at least 2 days during 1 month on the same job are reported in the BAE survey. Many emergency volunteers work for less than 2-day periods, such as those who take part in the harvest holidays held by many towns and communities. Other city workers have assisted with the farm harvest during week ends or for several hours in the late afternoons or evenings.

Of the 11,502,000 workers in farm jobs on September 1, 8,402,000 were listed as family workers, and 3,100,000 as hired workers. The number of family workers is larger than for the same period last year, which is explained by the fact that the present harvest season has been generally early. Much of this increase is accounted for by an earlier cotton crop, since it is customary for many family workers to help with the cotton harvest. The number of hired workers on farms this September 1 is approximately 100,000 less than for the same period of 1942.

Though some States have reached and passed their period of peak labor needs, most of the States still anticipate some difficulty in obtaining enough harvest workers during October. Urgent appeals are being made to the city and town people in most areas to help with the farm harvest. The success with which local mobilization efforts are carried out may determine whether some food crops are allowed to go to waste in the fields.

The local emergency volunteer workers still provide by far the largest source of nonfarm workers to help meet seasonal labor needs. Of the 900,000 persons placed on farms by county farm labor offices up to September 1, 700,000 were local people who went out to work on farms in their own area. The remaining 200,000 were composed of interstate migrants, foreign workers, troops, prisoners of war, and Japanese and Italian internees.

Nation-wide appeals for local town and city people to join in the movement to harvest farm crops will continue throughout the month. These appeals will be followed by local mobilizations.

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Major Farm Labor Needs in October

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated man-hours needed</u>
<u>Dairy Belt</u> (Conn., Maine, Mass., Mich., eastern Minn., N. H., northern N. J., N. Y., northeastern Ohio, northern Pa., R. I., Vt., Wis.)	
Oats - harvesting.....	3,500,000
Apples - harvesting.....	8,000,000
Irish potatoes - harvesting (also N. Dak.).....	15,000,000
Tomatoes - harvesting	1,000,000
<u>General Farming Area</u> (Del., Ky., Md., southern N. J., northern N. C., southern Ohio, southern Pa., Tenn., Va., W. Va.)	
Corn - harvesting.....	80,000,000
Peanuts - harvesting.....	6,000,000
Apples - harvesting.....	12,500,000
Snap beans - harvesting.....	600,000
Tobacco - preparing and marketing.....	25,000,000
<u>Cotton Belt</u> (Ala., Ark., Ga., La., Miss., southern N. C., eastern Okla., S. C., eastern and central Tex.)	
Cotton - picking (also Ariz., N. Mex., Calif.).....	400,000,000
Peanuts - harvesting.....	20,000,000
Snap beans - harvesting.....	300,000
Corn - harvesting.....	60,000,000
<u>Corn Belt</u> (Ill., Ind., Iowa, northeastern Kans., northern Mo., eastern Nebr., northwestern Ohio, southeastern S. Dak.)	
Corn - harvesting.....	60,000,000
Winter wheat - preparing and planting.....	5,000,000
Soybeans - harvesting.....	12,000,000
Apples - harvesting.....	1,200,000
<u>Special Areas</u>	
Apples - harvesting (Calif., Idaho, Wash.).....	6,000,000
Irish potatoes - harvesting (Idaho, Oreg., Wash.).....	4,000,000
Sugar beets - harvesting (Ariz., Calif., western Colo., Idaho, Mich., Mont., northwestern Nebr., Nev., N. Mex., Ohio, western So. Dak., Southwestern Tex., Utah, Wyo.).....	15,000,000
Tobacco - preparing and marketing (N.C., S.C., Ga.).....	25,000,000
Tomatoes - harvesting (Calif., Fla.).....	800,000
Citrus fruits - picking and hauling (Calif., Fla., Tex.)..	3,400,000
Miscellaneous vegetables - harvesting (Calif.).....	4,000,000
Snap beans - harvesting (Calif., Fla.).....	1,200,000

